

REMARKS

In an Office Action mailed May 14, 2010, claims 1-3, 5-14, 18-20 and 24 were rejected. Herein, claims 1 and 18-20 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Additionally, claim 24 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimed to the subject matter therein. Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

I. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph

Claims 1-3, 5-14, 18-20, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In particular, the Examiner alleges that the limitation “wherein the plurality of base coefficient groups have conversion characters such that a point in a color space according to the image signal after the memory color correction is in a predetermined region in the color space” is not described in the specification. Applicants respectfully disagree.

In reference to the corresponding US Patent Application Publication of the present application (US 2007/0183656), Applicants note that the above-noted limitation is supported by the specification at paragraphs [0133]-[0138] and [0183]-[0188], and Figures 4, 6a, and 6b. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-3, 5-14, 18-20, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1, 2, 5-14, 18-20 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Torigoe et al. (US 2003/0202194, hereafter “Torigoe”). By this Amendment, Applicants note that claim 24 has been cancelled, the subject matter of which has been incorporated into independent claims 1 and 18-20. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above rejection in view of the following.

Claim 1 recites (1) that a processing degree setting unit sets: a default value for a single target processing degree; a first boundary value, which is an upper limit value for the single target processing degree; and a secondary boundary value, which is a lower limit value for the

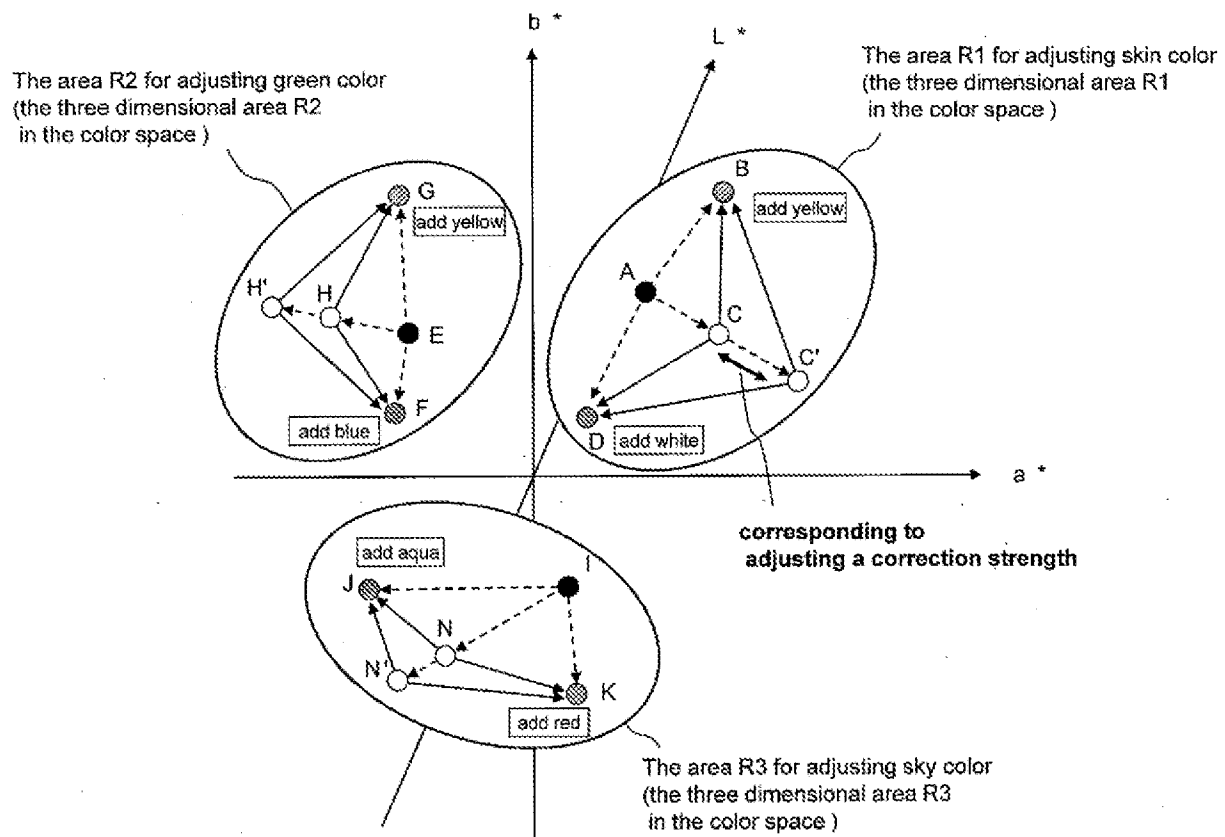
single target processing degree, (2) that a processing coefficient group creation unit creates: a default processing coefficient group corresponding to the default value; a first processing coefficient group corresponding to the first boundary value; and a second processing coefficient group corresponding to the second boundary value, (3) that, in a case when the single target processing degree is a value in a range between the default value of the single target processing degree and the first boundary value, the processing coefficient group creation unit creates the processing coefficient group for performing the memory color correction by interpolating the default processing coefficient group and the first processing coefficient group based on the single target processing degree, and (4) that, in a case when the single target processing degree is a value in a range between the default value of the target degree and the second boundary value, the processing coefficient group creation unit creates the processing coefficient group for performing the memory color correction by interpolating the default processing coefficient group and the second processing coefficient group based on the single target processing degree. Applicants respectfully submit that that the above-noted features of claim 1 are not disclosed, suggested, or otherwise rendered obvious by Torigoe.

Torigoe is directed to a technique for color conversion based upon regional preferences ([0001]). In particular, Torigoe discloses storing output profiles corresponding to different regional preferences (e.g., an American profile, an Asian profile, or a European profile) ([0065]). The stored output files are presented to a user via a graphical user interface thereby allowing the user to select a composition preference based on selection by an output profile composing unit ([0067]-[0071], FIG.3). For example, FIG. 3 of Torigoe illustrates a user interface consisting of a triangle with each apex corresponding to one of the stored output files (i.e., apex 301 corresponds to Asia, apex 302 corresponds to America, and apex 303 corresponds to Europe), in which the user manipulates a cursor to set an arbitrary point within the triangle as a preference composition based on the location of the cursor within the triangle ([0070]-[0080]).

In other words, Torigoe performs a color correction processing by combining three profiles based on the user selection of an arbitrary point within the triangle of FIG.3, and as a result, the preference composition is a combination of the apexes of the triangle, i.e., the color correction processing is based upon a composition ratio of the combination of the apexes of the

triangle based on the arbitrary point selected by the user. As such, it is difficult for the color correction processing of Torigoe to effectively perform a processing in consideration of a default value within the triangle due to the need of interpolating the arbitrary point selected by the user and the three apexes of the triangle.

In contrast to Torigoe, the presently claimed invention performs memory color correction processing in which a default value is set as a center value for processing, and processing is performed in a predetermined area in a color space in consideration of the default value, a first boundary value, and a second boundary value. For example, in reference to the exemplary figure included below, color correction processing is performed in an area R1 for adjusting skin color (corresponding to a predetermined area in a color space) in consideration of a first vector AC value (corresponding a default value), a second vector AB for enhancing yellow (corresponding to a first boundary value), and a third vector AD for enhancing white (corresponding to a second boundary value).



In particular, claim 1 recites (1) that a processing degree setting unit sets: a default value for a single target processing degree; a first boundary value, which is an upper limit value for the single target processing degree; and a secondary boundary value, which is a lower limit value for the single target processing degree, (2) that a processing coefficient group creation unit creates: a default processing coefficient group corresponding to the default value; a first processing coefficient group corresponding to the first boundary value; and a second processing coefficient group corresponding to the second boundary value, (3) that, in a case when the single target processing degree is a value in a range between the default value of the single target processing degree and the first boundary value, the processing coefficient group creation unit creates the processing coefficient group for performing the memory color correction by interpolating the default processing coefficient group and the first processing coefficient group based on the single target processing degree, and (4) that, in a case when the single target processing degree is a value in a range between the default value of the target degree and the second boundary value, the processing coefficient group creation unit creates the processing coefficient group for performing the memory color correction by interpolating the default processing coefficient group and the second processing coefficient group based on the single target processing degree.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that Torigoe fails to disclose, suggest, or otherwise render obvious the above-noted features of claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Torigoe.

Applicants note that by providing the above-noted features of claim 1, it becomes possible to achieve prompt and appropriate memory color correction processing by adjusting a correction trend of the memory color correction and a correction strength of the memory color correction even when a user who knows little about color spaces used a device incorporating the features of the presently claimed invention.

Claims 2 and 5-14 are patentable over Torigoe based at least on their dependency from claim 1.

Claims 18 and 19 have been amended in a manner similar to claim 1. In particular, claims 18 and 19 recite (1) that a setting the target degree for color processing includes setting: a default value for a single target processing degree; a first boundary value, which is an upper limit value for the single target processing degree; and a secondary boundary value, which is a lower limit value for the single target processing degree, (2) that a creating the processing coefficient group that performs color processing of the single target processing degree includes creating: a default processing coefficient group corresponding to the default value; a first processing coefficient group corresponding to the first boundary value; and a second processing coefficient group corresponding to the second boundary value, (3) that, in a case when the single target processing degree is a value in a range between the default value of the single target processing degree and the first boundary value, the processing coefficient group for performing the memory color correction is created by interpolating the default processing coefficient group and the first processing coefficient group based on the single target processing degree, and (4) that, in a case when the single target processing degree is a value in a range between the default value of the target degree and the second boundary value, the processing coefficient group for performing the memory color correction is created by interpolating the default processing coefficient group and the second processing coefficient group based on the single target processing degree. Applicants respectfully submit that Torigoe fails to disclose, suggest, or otherwise render obvious the above-noted features of claims 18 and 19 for reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to claim 1. Therefore, claims 18 and 19 are patentable over Torigoe.

Claim 20 has been amended in a manner similar to claim 1. In particular, claim 20 recites (1) that a processing degree setting portion sets: a default value for a single target processing degree; a first boundary value, which is an upper limit value for the single target processing degree; and a secondary boundary value, which is a lower limit value for the single target processing degree, (2) that a processing coefficient group creation portion creates: a default processing coefficient group corresponding to the default value; a first processing coefficient group corresponding to the first boundary value; and a second processing coefficient group corresponding to the second boundary value, (3) that, in a case when the single target processing degree is a value in a range between the default value of the single target processing degree and the first boundary value, the processing coefficient group creation portion creates the

processing coefficient group for performing the memory color correction by interpolating the default processing coefficient group and the first processing coefficient group based on the single target processing degree, and (4) that, in a case when the single target processing degree is a value in a range between the default value of the target degree and the second boundary value, the processing coefficient group creation portion creates the processing coefficient group for performing the memory color correction by interpolating the default processing coefficient group and the second processing coefficient group based on the single target processing degree. Applicants respectfully submit that Torigoe fails to disclose, suggest, or otherwise render obvious the above-noted features of claim 20 for reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to claim 1. Therefore, claim 20 is patentable over Torigoe.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claim 3 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Torigoe in view of Fujino (US 2004/0227964). Applicants respectfully submit that Fujino fails to provide disclosure that would obviate the above-mentioned deficiencies of Torigoe. Therefore, claim 3 is patentable over any combination of Torigoe and Fujino based at least on its dependency from claim 1.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-3, 5-14, and 18-20 are clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner believes that there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, it respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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